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Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence

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2-4-1876

# Letter from Sarah Whitney, Belmont, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, Florence, Italy, 1876 February 4

Sarah Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

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### Recommended Citation

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models, join their execrations to ours upon  
the masculine judgment. Meeting Mrs. Cheney  
yesterday I told her what very few persons know,  
that Messrs. Ball, Mallam & Whitney's work may  
still be seen. I trust she will find the leisure  
& strength to mount the Internal Revenue stairs  
& give the public her opinion thereon. Women  
are so earnestly fighting the <sup>universal</sup> Suffrage battle  
just now, they haven't time to attend to the details  
of particular grievances. Mr. Black tells Garibaldi  
that there is a good deal of grumbling. I think  
I did not tell you that the letter I sent you  
from the "Phil. Press" was copied into the Common-  
wealth. I carried to Mr. G. yesterday your letter  
& read it to him. Whether it is your writing or  
writing in general that he finds difficult to  
read, I don't know. Your request will be complied  
with directly. I have been looking at the picture  
of the Statuette, & wondering whether it will be  
winning past artistic forgiveness in these  
days when there is such a prejudice in favor  
of clothes to suggest something larger than  
a fig leaf as veil for the beautiful work  
you have in your mind's eye.

Does the "we" who might all go together  
to Florence if G. G. could delay her going, like  
Addy? It looks so in the letter excepting  
that you speak of her going to the coast <sup>in the Spring</sup> again.  
I know that both acts are possible & I hope they  
are probable. May no moun-colds or other aches  
prevent you from going to the theatre the next  
time or to any other pleasure! Our gazettes came  
to a close some time ago. The doings of the Legislature  
<sup>have</sup> furnished a rather agreeable variety to Edward's life,  
& through him to ours. As the season advances  
however & the squabbling becomes more intense I  
fear he may not enjoy it so well.

I do not remember, if I have ever heard, the  
story of Mr. Part & his Venus & Cupid. Is he  
an American & is this his only work? I suppose  
you will see or hear that Boston has given Mr.  
Ball another job - the Quincy statue! Who is  
Miss Porcross? I think you mention her now for  
the first time.

Yes! perhaps the old tiles do "look like stranded seaweed,  
that have lost the winds & the waves & the wild  
uproar"; but they have fallen into an antique



looking settled & seem consoled. I am surprised  
to find what a convenience I provided for myself  
when seeking only the gratification of C & C. A  
handsome bronze pedestal sink stand in the place  
of my old wooden one is the next desideratum.  
That will make its appearance one of these days.  
Pur. Feb. 6.

I did not tell you in my last that Katy  
was slowly gaining. On Thurs. last she was able  
to go down stairs once a day, & was only waiting  
for favorable weather to drive out. Since then  
we have experienced "No Arctic War" that  
has been followed by a snow storm that is  
giving us the first use of the sleigh though  
no desirable sleighing. I doubt if Katy finds  
either in weather or roads, her opportunity for  
getting out. I had the pleasure of reading  
your letter & was commissioned with a message of  
most grateful love.

A bit of good fortune that has fallen upon  
Miss Foley is worth reporting - viz, that she has  
been asked by the head authorities at Phila to send  
without expense to herself, her four tains to grace  
the Centre of the Horticultural Building, with  
the promise that a purchaser shall be obtained  
for it when they have done with it. As she had  
not decided so much as a circular requesting contribution  
to any department, she is very jubilant. Her ardent sister  
H. H. is much amazed & can hardly believe Miss F's word.

So anxious for the opinion of friends on this matter as I am, but I send this for a straw in the right direction. ~~With~~ Edward, I suppose will tell you how you have stung against Chiquette in not acknowledging the receipt of the Recty's letter announcing the prize. I trust he will be able to set the matter straight in their official eyes. I will enclose with this letter Mr. Dana's rec'd to day, after copying to the blank page what is written on the 3<sup>d</sup>.

A "Reformer" in The Advertiser who thinks he knows much of Panel painting gives Miss Green & Ellen R. such a lions share of blame. I fancy they know more about it than he - Still I think his structures worthy some regard though I am sorry for the sufferers. The former finds life hard enough without such gratuitous blows, & the latter works with such vim through sickness & health she deserves the success she has obtained. Tues. A.M. I composed a letter on my bed. So much better than the pen & ink reality of last ev'g. I am forced to destroy much of the latter though it had some items of gossip that may have to be repeated hereafter. I hope but scarce expect that my letter will come to day - Edw'd. must make up for the reports of this

Mon. evng Jan 31

Edw. will tell you how easy it is to get any desired information from Boston Nat Committee. I sh<sup>d</sup> like to see that very polite letter that has been given to Mr. Slack to day, or even to learn at 2nd hand what is the drift of it. As he (Mr. S.) does not intend to show it to his coadjutors, the politeness I fancy is veiled. In a note I rec<sup>d</sup> to night from Miss Hale, she says, "I have been to see Mr. Sumner & I do not see how any one in his senses c<sup>d</sup> hesitate for a moment to give up, Sister the palm. It is a real man & an American Statesman who sits there at his ease, conscious of his power while the two poor little other men are half afraid to sit in their very elaborate chairs & I am sure w<sup>d</sup> like, one to his pile of little books, & the other to his "Civil Rights bill," if any one sh<sup>d</sup> ask him unexpectedly "Why are you two little men? I had to measure these three before I c<sup>d</sup> believe them to be of the same size - an idea looks so much higher than a chair! You were not half indignant enough." The letter was nicely to my apology for an outbreak in wh. I indulged in the presence of Misses Hale & Greene. You are not, I know



Ms. A. 9. 2. 1874

*R*



Miss Anne

~~Hotel & Rue Jean Bart~~



Euse & Matteini  
Florence  
Italy

~~France~~



*Ante 2. adme*

